

**FEATURING: ▸ Agricultural Prices ▸ Farm Labor ▸ Slaughter ▸ Cattle on Feed
▸ Chickens & Eggs ▸ Cold Storage ▸ Milk Production**

LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN PRICES UP OR UNCHANGED

Kentucky prices received by farmers at mid-August were up or unchanged for both livestock and grain.

Steers and heifers 500 lbs. and over remained at \$71.00 per cwt., unchanged from July. The price was \$8.00 above August a year ago and the highest they have been since May 1998. Prices received for beef cows were \$1.00 above August 1998, but remained at \$36.00 per cwt. for the third consecutive month. Calves under 500 lbs. were \$79.00 per cwt., the same as June and July, and \$9.00 above August, 1998.

Prices received for barrows and gilts at mid-August averaged \$35.00 per cwt., an increase of \$6.00 over July, but \$1.00 less than received last August. This is the highest prices have been for the past 12 months. Sow prices averaged \$24.00 per cwt. at mid-August, an increase of \$4.00 from last month and \$2.00 above August 1998.

The all milk price at mid-August increased slightly to \$13.50 per cwt., 20 cents above July, but \$1.60 below last year at this time.

Corn prices increased ever so slightly to \$1.95 per bushel, 1 cent above last month, but decreased 7 cents from the \$2.02 per bushel of last August. Prices received for soybeans at mid-August were \$4.50 per bushel, 28 cents above last month while declining \$1.16 from August a year ago. The winter wheat price of \$2.15 per bushel was 7 cents above last month and 9 cents above the \$2.06 price of last August.

The U.S. All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in August was 98 based on 1990-92=100 and mid-month August prices, up 3 points (3.2 percent) from the preliminary July index. Price increases from July for milk, hogs, wheat, and corn more than offset price decreases for broilers, potatoes, oranges, and tomatoes. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn more than offset the relatively lower marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers. These marketing changes contributed less than one point to the overall increase in the index. Compared with August 1998, the All Farm Products Index was 3 points (3.0 percent) lower. Price decreases from August 1998 for broilers, soybeans, milk, and lettuce more than offset price increases for cattle, peaches, calves, and turkeys.

AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS - (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY		US	
		AUG 1998	JULY 1999	AUG 1999	AUG 1999
		Entire Month		Mid-Month a/	
All Corn <u>b/</u> <u>c/</u>	Bu.	2.02	1.94	1.95	1.78
Soybeans <u>b/</u>	Bu.	5.66	4.22	4.50	4.25
Winter Wheat <u>b/</u>	Bu.	2.06	2.08	2.15	2.30
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	109.00	113.00	120.00	81.50
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	71.00	73.00	78.00	62.80
All Hogs	Cwt.	35.40	28.60	34.60	36.40
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	36.00	29.00	35.00	37.20
Sows	Cwt.	22.00	20.00	24.00	23.40
All Beef Cattle <u>d/</u>	Cwt.	56.30	62.60	62.60	62.90
Steers & Heifers <u>e/</u>	Cwt.	63.00	71.00	71.00	65.60
Cows	Cwt.	35.00	36.00	36.00	37.00
Calves <u>f/</u>	Cwt.	70.00	79.00	79.00	89.00
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	15.10	13.30	13.50	14.90
Fluid <u>g/</u>	Cwt.	15.10	13.30	--	14.90
Manufactured	Cwt.	14.20	12.20	--	14.80
Hog-Corn Ratios <u>h/</u>	Bu.	17.5	14.7	17.7	20.4

a/ Preliminary. b/ Includes contract sales paid during month. c/ Includes yellow and white corn. d/ "Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. e/ 500 lbs. and over. f/ Under 500 lbs. g/ Includes surplus diverted to manufacturing. h/ Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

U.S. HIRED WORKERS UP 1 PERCENT, WAGES UP 5 PERCENT

There were 1.46 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of July 11-17, 1999, up 1 percent from a year ago. There were 1.14 million workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 319,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 12.5 percent of the July hired workforce compared to 13.7 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$7.58 per hour during the July 1999 survey week, up 33 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$7.05 per hour, up 27 cents from last July.

Livestock workers earned \$7.15 per hour compared with \$6.91 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock workers combined wage rate was up 27 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers in the 3-State Region including Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee totaled 40,000 during the week of July 11-17, 1999.

Field workers in the region were paid \$6.25 per hour compared to \$6.07 during the same period last year. Livestock workers were paid \$6.57 per hour compared to \$6.54 last year. The wage rate for all hired workers in the 3-State Region was \$6.89.

BEEF AND RED MEAT PRODUCTION EQUAL RECORD HIGHS FOR JULY

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.78 billion pounds in July, equaling the previous record high for July set in 1998. July 1998 contained 23 weekdays and 4 Saturdays (including one holiday). July 1999 contained 22 weekdays and 5 Saturdays. **Beef production**, at 2.26 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year and equaled the previous record high for July set in 1997. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.08 million head, up 1 percent from 1998. The average live weight was up 3 pounds from the previous year, at 1,206 pounds. **Pork production** totaled 1.49 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.91 million head, 4 percent below 1998. The average live weight was 4 pounds above the previous year, at 256 pounds.

COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION: U. S. & KENTUCKY ^{1/}

Type	July 1998	June 1999	July 1999	July 99 % of	
				July 1998	June 1999
Million Pounds			Percent		
Beef	2,213	2,321	2,256	102	97
Veal	21	19	19	89	99
Pork	1,529	1,583	1,489	97	94
Lamb & Mutton	18	17	17	97	100
Total U.S.	3,781	3,940	3,781	100	96
Total Kentucky	38.4	36.3	34.3	89	95

^{1/} Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER: KENTUCKY & U.S. JULY 1998 & 1999 ^{1/}

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live Weight	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
Kentucky						
Cattle	4.1	0.9	4,257	777	1,043	848
Hogs	192.5	175.9	48,092	45,387	250	258
Sheep & Lambs	0.7	0.9	95	122	132	139
United States						
Cattle	3,039.3	3,083.7	3,656,812	3,718,517	1,203	1,206
Hogs	8,269.7	7,909.6	2,084,434	2,026,243	252	256
Sheep & Lambs	281.4	265.0	35,923	34,918	128	132

^{1/} Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

U.S. CATTLE ON FEED

CATTLE ON FEED 7 STATES 1/

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.20 million head on August 1, 1999. The inventory was 2 percent above August 1, 1998 and 5 percent above August 1, 1997.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.81 million, 6 percent below 1998 and 9 percent below 1997. Net placements were 1.76 million. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 333,000, 600-699 pounds were 400,000, 700-799 pounds were 578,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 501,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 2.12 million, 3 percent above 1998 but slightly below 1997.

Other disappearance totaled 52,000 during July, 4 percent above 1998 but 9 percent below 1997.

Cattle on feed August 1, 1999, in the 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 7.88 million, up 2 percent from the previous year and 5 percent above August 1, 1997.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.57 million, 7 percent below 1998 and 11 percent below 1997.

Marketings during July totaled 1.82 million, 3 percent above 1998 but 2 percent below 1997.

Other disappearance during July was 43,000 head, 5 percent above 1998 and 2 percent above 1997.

1/AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, and TX.

UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Item	July 1998	July 1999	July '99 as % of July '98
Egg Production			
Eggs Produced (Million)	6,720	6,906	103
Average Layers (000)	308,927	319,889	104
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,175	2,159	99
Egg Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Aug 1 (000)	27,443	29,465	107
Chicks Hatched (000)	35,558	34,269	96
Broiler Type Hatchery			
Eggs Set Aug 1 (000)	603,524	625,636	104
Chicks Hatched (000)	722,715	750,547	104

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on July 31, 1999, were greater than year earlier levels for butter, chicken, pork, fruit, and vegetables. This was the eighth month in a row that pork exceeded the 500 million pound mark and also a high for the respective month. The previous record July high total pork stocks was 415 million pounds set in 1998. Likewise, July 1999 stocks of chicken, at 943 million pounds, also broke the previous record July high of 666 million pounds set in 1997. Vegetables also set a new July record high. Cooler stocks of peanuts and apples were each higher than a year earlier.

All U S. Warehouse Stocks				July 1999 as % of	
Commodity	July 31 1998	June 30 1999	July 31 1999	July 1998	June 1999
Frozen Poultry	1,000 lbs			Percent	
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	15,448	33,403	34,182	221	102
Other Chicken	553,780	797,807	898,950	162	113
Total Chicken <u>1/</u>	578,511	842,034	943,190	163	112
Turkey	701,776	556,136	601,957	86	108
Total Frozen Poultry <u>2/</u>	1,285,224	1,403,706	1,550,482	121	110
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	302,996	292,777	292,331	96	100
Pork:					
Bellies	31,433	93,383	69,653	222	75
Total Frozen Pork <u>3/</u>	414,620	532,100	500,568	121	94
Total Meat <u>4/</u>	747,157	847,106	815,938	109	96

1/ Includes broilers, hens and other chickens. 2/ Includes chicken, turkey and ducks. 3/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, spareribs trimmings, and other frozen pork. 4/ Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

MILK PRODUCTION

Kentucky milk production for July 1999 totaled 130 million pounds, down 6 percent from July 1998 and down 2 percent from June 1999. Average number of cows on farms, at 132,000, was down 9,000 head from a year earlier and down 1,000 head from last month. Milk per cow averaged 985 pounds, up 5 pounds from last year and down 15 pounds from the previous month.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during July totaled 11.6 billion pounds, up 2.3 percent from production in these same States in July 1998. July milk production was down 1.2 percent from June 1999, compared to a decrease of 0.7 percent for the same period in 1998. June revised production, at 11.7 billion pounds was up 2.8 percent from June 1998. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,496 pounds for July, 28 pounds above July 1998. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 27,000 head more than July 1998 and 6,000 head more than June 1999.

MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION FOR JULY, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Milk Cows <u>1/</u>		Milk Per Cow <u>1/</u>		Production <u>2/</u>		1999 as % of 1998
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	
	Thousands		Pounds		Million Pounds		Percent
CA	1,421	1,468	1,625	1,705	2,309	2,503	108
IL	127	122	1,320	1,310	168	160	95
IN	136	136	1,350	1,360	184	185	101
KY	141	132	980	985	138	130	94
MO	170	159	1,105	1,055	188	168	89
OH	264	260	1,350	1,340	356	348	98
VA	124	119	1,185	1,200	147	143	97
WI	1,366	1,368	1,445	1,430	1,974	1,956	99
20 State							
Total	7,709	7,736	1,468	1,496	11,314	11,571	102

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

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